Children are using smart devices from a much younger age than ever before. It's why it's essential we talk to our children about how to use them safely. There are so many positive benefits to the new technology at our disposal these days - however there are plenty of downsides too. As a parent, it's important you understand these risks and how you can take steps to protect your family against them.

PUT YOURSELF IN CONTROL





PROTECTING ANDROID DEVICES

a Google account. Open the settings menu (look for a cog icon) and select the 'Users' option. Here you can add a new estricted user. After setting up a password and username, select which applications you want to restrict access to. On ontrols' in the play store.

PROTECTING APPLE DEVICES



MAKE SEARCHING MUCH SAFER

Most search engines, such as Google, Bing or Yahoo, have a 'safe search' setting. You should activate this. Otherwise, it's extremely easy for a seemingly harmless search on the Internet to return unexpected and inappropriate results. Depending on the browser you're using, go to the settings and search for 'safe search'. Make sure you save the change so it defaults each time you open the browser. This will seriously reduce the chances of your child being exposed to something they shouldn't be.



THINK ABOUT ALL YOUR **SMART DEVICES**

As well as tablets and smartphones, you should think about any device in your home connected to the internet: a games console, a media hub, or a personal computer, in each case you can usually find parental controls in access you want to allow your child, especially when it comes to accessing the Internet.





9 Top Tips To Get Smart About children's devices

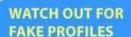


REGULARLY CHECK SOCIAL MEDIA SETTINGS



DON'T LET PEOPLE SEE WHERE YOU ARE

also provides the opportunity for others to locate your child too. For safety, it's a good idea to disable location software on all devices or at least turn it off when it's not required. Also, be mindful of specific apps that record running routes or locations where your child might be playing a game. Talk to your child about why these can be



Sadly, social media presents an enormous opportunity for the likes of paedophiles to set up fake profiles and interact with children. Keep a track of the people your child interacts with on social media and If you do not recognise a user as a friend, consider blocking them.



KEEP A CHECK ON SCREEN TIME



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